



File Code: 1950
Date: June 1, 2022

Dear Interested Public:

The Northern Region of the Forest Service is seeking input on the draft environmental assessment for the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) Visitor Use Capacity Analysis. The NPNHT is 2,184 miles long and crosses multiple jurisdictions, including Federal, State, Tribal, local, and private lands extending from the vicinity of Wallowa Lake, Oregon, to Bears Paw Mountains, Montana. Congress designated the trail in 1986, adding it to the nationwide system of scenic, recreational, and historic trails established by the National Trails System Act of 1968 (Trails Act).

The draft environmental assessment includes the proposal for identification of visitor use capacity on National Forest System lands *only* to meet the regulatory requirements of the Trails Act which is one part of the comprehensive plan for the NPNHT.

Your Opportunity to Engage

During this comment period, we will be hosting a virtual public meeting on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, to help answer any questions you may have. Please see the Nez Perce National Historic Trail website, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/npnht/> for more information regarding this meeting.

Your Opportunity to Comment and Timeframe

Specific written comments (§218.2) on this draft environmental assessment, found on the Nez Perce National Historic Trail webpage, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/npnht/> will be accepted for 30 calendar days following public notification of the legal notice in the *Missoulian* (Missoula, Montana). The publication date is expected to be June 3, 2022, in the *Missoulian* and is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period.

Written comments must be submitted via mail, fax, or in person (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to: Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator Nez Perce National Historic Trail, Northern Region R1, 12730 Hwy. 12, Orofino, ID 83544, FAX: (208) 476-8285.

Electronic comments including attachments can be submitted by email to: sandra.broncheau-mcfarland@usda.gov. Acceptable formats for electronic comments are text or html e-mail, Adobe portable document format, and formats viewable in Microsoft Office applications.


This comment period is only for the Visitor Capacity Draft Environmental Assessment not the entire comprehensive plan and is the only notice and comment period for this part of the project. Following the comment period and after careful review of all comments received, a draft decision will be available for the public to review and subject to objections 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.



It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments will have eligibility (36 CFR 218.5) to file an objection under 36 CFR 218.8. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments must either sign the comment or verify identity upon request. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements in §218.25(a)(3). Names and contact information submitted with comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Supporting Documentation is available on-line at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/npnht/> or additional information regarding this action may also be obtained from Sandra Broncheau-Mcfarland, sandra.broncheau-mcfarland@usda.gov or 208-476-8234.

Sincerely,

 Digitally signed by
LEANNE MARTEN
Date: 2022.06.01
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LEANNE M. MARTEN
Regional Forester